



REGIONAL  
CYCLE REMEDIAL  
ACTION DIVISION

53 AUG 26 AM 10:15

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

VILLAGE/TOWN OF MOUNT KISCO

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

104 Main Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0150

John T. Pierpont  
VILLAGE MANAGER

Muszynski-  
Callahan

cc. Paula Callahan

Simon

Telephone

(914) 241-0500

Marshall

August 20, 1993

Juan R. Noto

Remind Vince

on Tues.

Mr. Noto

9/2/93

PA 25.

Mr. William J. Muszynski  
Acting Regional Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278

Dear Mr. Muszynski:

Last week a reporter from Washington, D.C. called my office regarding a site survey allegedly conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). I have enclosed a copy of this site survey for your information.

This reporter indicated that the US EPA had conducted this survey and that this site survey was part of a larger report prepared for the US EPA.

Upon receipt of this report I immediately forwarded it to the Mount Kisco Village Board of Trustees who are the governing body of our Village. They considered the site survey at their regular public meeting of August 16, 1993. They directed me to write to you to find out if in fact this site survey is part of a US EPA study and so how it would be that the US EPA would have this information and not share it with the community effected by this site.

The Board further asked that if this is in fact the US EPA Commission's site survey that all information gathered by the US EPA regarding this site be immediately forwarded to them so that they may properly evaluate the information and inform the public.

93 AUG 23 PM 2:35

US EPA

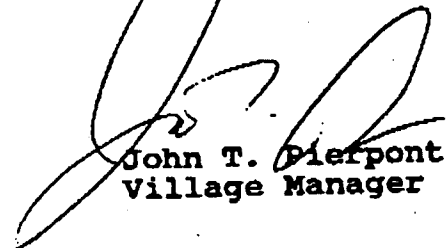
248704



Page 2  
August 20, 1993

I look forward to your prompt response to this matter.

Sincerely,



John T. Pierpont  
Village Manager

JTP/pm

cc: Village Board of Trustees  
Alfonse M. D'Amato, United States Senator  
Daniel P. Moynihan, United States Senator  
Hamilton Fish, Jr., United States Representative  
George E. Pataki, State Senator  
Naomi Matusow, State Assemblywoman  
Westchester County Department of Health  
Mount Kisco Planning Board  
Richards Home Center & Lumber, Inc.

## Kisco Site Listed as Radioactive 'Hot Spot'

By A.J. McCABE

**MOUNT KISCO.** — A piece of property on Kisco Avenue has been reported to be on a Federal Superfund Clean Up List as a "hot spot" containing radioactive waste.

A telephone call to Village Manager John Pierpont from a reporter in Washington D.C. late last week was the source of the information, Mr. Pierpont said during a regular meeting of the village board Monday night.

According to State News Service Reporter Ellen Silberman, a radioactive site exists on Kisco Avenue and is on a grant list issued by the Environmental Protection Agency for clean-up. Ms. Silberman said she was writing a story for the Westchester section of the New York Times, according to Mr. Pierpont's office.

The site once housed the Canadian Radium and Uranium Corporation. But that business was "decontaminated and demolished" in 1968 as part of an "urban renewal closing," a spokeswoman for Mr. Pierpont said.

A file containing the final reports of the closing of the facility, with proper approvals, was provided by the village to the Westchester County Department of Health, Mr. Pierpont said, after he notified them of the report.

County Legislator Richard Flynn,

*Continued on Page A-10*

## Radioactive

*Continued from Page A1*

the village's former mayor, said he received a similar call from Ms. Silberman. "It was a surprise to me," said Mr. Flynn, who added that he also contacted the health department and is being kept updated by its personnel daily on the situation there.

"My gut feeling is that there's not a problem. I hope there's not a problem," said Mr. Flynn. "There was definitely a clean-up in the late 70's when they removed some soil."

He said the health department had been contacted by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which was also not informed of the inspection by the federal government, and told "in their opinion, there is no significant problem at the site. I wouldn't be surprised if it got a clean bill of health. They're just annoyed that the federal government never notified them," he said of county and state officials.

"How can you write a page and one-half report with alarming stuff like that based on one visit and never notify the correct people?" fumed Mr. Flynn, who chairs the County Legislature's Environmental

Committee. He said the Federal agents visited the site in October of 1992.

"I'm miffed no one came to the village or the Mayor to inform us this site is a 'hot spot'," Mayor Richard Roth said. "If tests are being conducted and there is a problem tell us what the problem is and we'll rectify it, or tell us if there isn't a problem, at least inform us of what is going on."

"In 1968 the closing of this facility was a done deal. The question is why in August of 1993 is this resurfacing?" Trustee Richard Romeo said.

"We want to find out what's going on," Deputy Mayor Ralph Vigliotti said. "We want to be informed."

A "site summary" was faxed to Mr. Pierpont from Ms. Silberman regarding the Kisco Avenue site, but there was no clear identification that the paperwork was generated from the EPA.

Doug Hertz, a member of the audience at Monday night's meeting, asked what kind of information the site summary provided. Mr. Pierpont explained that while some of the information was alarming, including a statement that "a release to ground water is suspected," the county health department and DEC are the agencies with jurisdiction over the matter.

# Radiation report causes concern in Mount Kisco

By Katherine Bruce  
Staff Writer

Radiation remaining from a plant that processed radioactive material 40 years ago could contaminate Mount Kisco's ground water, says a report that has officials worried about health hazards and angry that they weren't informed sooner.

The 1-acre site off Kisco Avenue is now occupied by Richards Home and Lumber Co. From 1943 to 1966, it was used by the Canadian Radium and Uranium Corp. to recover uranium and radium for the Manhattan Project, a federal project to build the first atom bomb. In 1968, the site was decontaminated and the building on it destroyed. Since then, it has been on a federal watch list for potential radioactive sites.

Richard Cahill, a spokesman for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said the report was just a preliminary study to see if there were any health risks.

The site is not considered an active hazard, Cahill emphasized, and was just one of many inactive sites being reviewed by the EPA.

The EPA produced the report from a compilation of Westchester County Department of Health and state Department of Environmental Conservation documents.

According to the EPA report, inspectors went to the Mount Kisco site on Oct. 28 but never actually entered the lumberyard to do any testing. Their observations of the site were included in the EPA report.

Local officials said yesterday they had not been notified about the inspection or the existence of the report, which was released after the October inspection. Cahill did not know the date of the report's release.

"No one ever told me about it," said Mayor Richard Roth.

Westchester County Legislator Richard A. Flynn, a former

Mount Kisco mayor, said that he first heard of the report last week when a reporter with a Washington, D.C.-based news service telephoned to question him about it.

Flynn then discussed the report with the county Health Department and DEC. He said he was angry that the 1982 inspection had occurred without the knowledge of any local officials.

"It's not surprising but (is) unforgivable," he said.

An on-site inspection was done in 1988, at which time soil contaminated by radiation was found. The levels of radiation were not determined to be a health hazard. However, according to the EPA report, there is still a possibility of ground and surface water contamination. There was also a possibility of contamination through airborne particles.

Dr. Paul Merges, chief of the DEC's Bureau of Radiation, said yesterday that he had inspected the site last week and did not think it posed a hazard to the public.

"There was some residual contamination but not a significant amount," he said. "You will find small pockets of soil that indicates a presence of radiation three, four, five times the amount of background radiation. But we found no areas that would warrant a violation of our regulations."

Merges said that although a potential for ground water contamination existed, it was a minute one. A soil sample was taken during his visit, but the results will not be available until next month.

Frank Marcella, manager of Richards Home and Lumber Co., said he was unaware of any inspections or health hazards.

"I think years and years ago there was something here, but they cleaned it up, or I wouldn't be here," Marcella said. "I heard something about it, but I didn't pay it no mind."